

hands. Many months during 1862 to 1865 were given to this fascinating study, with a view to the preparation and publication of a series of illustrated monographs of the pterylography of different families of birds, the Owls being the first it was proposed to treat methodically. Owing to lack of material and other circumstances the work was never completed, but my preliminary studies extended to the leading types of North American birds, and hundreds of preparations were made illustrative of the general subject. Studies of the pterylae were made partly from freshly killed birds, but mainly from alcoholic specimens, which were found to be an excellent substitute for fresh material when the latter could not be obtained. None of the results have as yet been published, and the field is still open. It was found that good taxonomic characters were furnished by the form and character of the pterylae, as well as by the structure of the feathers themselves. Among the Flycatchers (*Tyrannidae*) for example, good generic characters could be found in the distribution of the feathers on the throat and top of the head—as in the number of rows of feathers and their arrangement. Reference is here made to the subject merely to strengthen Mr. Clark's "appeal for an apparently neglected branch of ornithology."—J. A. ALLEN.]

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

PROFESSOR JOHN STRONG NEWBERRY of Columbia College died, after a long illness, at New Haven, Conn., December 7, 1892, at the age of 70 years. He was born in Windsor, Conn., in 1822, and was graduated from Western Reserve College in 1840, and from the Cleveland Medical College in 1846. In 1855 he was appointed assistant surgeon and geologist to the Government exploring expedition under Lieut. R. S. Williamson, examining the country between the Sacramento Valley and the Columbia River. Later he accompanied Lieut. J. C. Ives in his exploration of the Colorado River, during the years 1857-58. During the War of the Rebellion he was Secretary of the United States Sanitary Commission. At the close of the war he was appointed Professor of Geology and Palaeontology at Columbia College, and in 1869 became State Geologist of Ohio. For many years he was president of the Torrey Botanical Club in New York City, and of the New York Academy of Sciences. Although distinguished in early life for his medical knowledge, and later as an eminent specialist in geology and palaeontology, he has left his mark upon North American ornithology, through his field work in connection with the early Government expeditions to which he was attached. His report upon the birds of the route surveyed by Lieut. Williamson was published in 1857 in Vol. VI of the Pacific Railroad Reports of Explorations and Surveys.

DR. PHILO R. HOY, the well-known physician and naturalist of Racine Wis., died suddenly at Racine, Dec. 9, 1892, at the age of 76 years. He was born in Richland County, Ohio, in 1816, was graduated from the

Ohio Medical College in 1840, and moved to Racine, Wis., in 1850. He for many years was the most prominent naturalist of the State, holding for a time the position of naturalist on the Geological Survey, and was for four years Fish Commissioner, and later was for three years President of the Wisconsin Academy of Art, Science, and Letters. He is well known to the older ornithologists for his various papers on Wisconsin birds. These papers include 'Notes on the Ornithology of Wisconsin,' published in 1853; 'Some of the Peculiarities of the Fauna near Racine' (1874); 'Journal of an Exploration of Western Missouri in 1854, under the Auspices of the Smithsonian Institution' (1865), 'Man's Influence on the Avifauna of Southeastern Wisconsin' (1885), and numerous minor papers in various scientific journals.

AT THE Tenth Congress of the American Ornithologists Union, Article V, Section 4 of the By-Laws was amended to read as follows: "The name of any member one year in arrears for dues shall be removed from the roll of membership; provided that two notices of indebtedness shall have been given him by the Treasurer, at intervals of three months; and no such member shall be restored to membership until he has been re-elected."

The following new rule was also adopted, to stand as Rule IX (the subsequent rules to be renumbered), as follows: "A committee on communications, consisting of three members, shall be appointed by the President each year, which shall receive from the Secretary all papers sent to him, from which said Committee shall select those to be read at the stated meetings."

The President appointed as this Committee for the ensuing year the Secretary and Messrs. Elliot and Allen.

THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB was organized at the Mona Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, October 5, 1892, Dr. P. L. Sclater, F. R. S., in the chair. Rules were proposed and adopted, and Mr. Howard Saunders was elected Secretary and Treasurer. It was determined to hold a meeting on the third Wednesday of every month from October to June inclusive, and that an abstract of the proceedings of the Club be printed as soon as possible after each meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.' Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe was appointed editor, and R. H. Porter, 18 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W. London, was selected as publisher. Three numbers have been issued, No. 3 bearing date Dec. 1, 1892. The 'Bulletin' offers a speedy medium for the publication of preliminary descriptions of new species, of which not less than 16 are described in No. 2, and 6 in No. 3. It also gives brief abstracts of papers, most of which will doubtless appear at length later in 'The Ibis.' At the second regular meeting, held Nov. 16, the chairman announced that the Club had already 72 members. Evidently the plan meets a 'long felt want.'

A NEW monthly ornithological journal is announced to appear in Berlin in January, 1893, entitled 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte.' It will be under the editorship of Dr. Anton Reichenow, and published by R. Friedländer und Sohn.